

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 016288
ORIGIN CG-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAXRUEBJGA
COMLANT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJ : CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR PARTS SUPPORT OF

1. AS POSTS ARE AWARE, U.S. COAST GUARD OPERATES AIRCRAFT OUT OF ST. JOHNS, NEWFOUNDLAND MARCH-JULY EACH YEAR IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL AGREEMENT (TO WHICH CANADA IS SIGNATOR).

2. COGARD HAS IN PAST ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL PROBLEMS PROVIDING PARTS SUPPORT FOR ITS AIRCRAFT, THE CHIEF ONE BEING EXTENSIVE (UP TO ONE WEEK) DELAYS CAUSED BY NECESSITY FOR THE PARTS TO CLEAR CANADIAN CUSTOMS. THIS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY TRUE WHEN THE PARTS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCCOMPANIED BY A COURIER.

3. ALTHOUGH COGARD MAINTAINS A SMALL INVENTORY OF SPARE PARTS AT ST. JOHNS, IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO BE PREPARED FOR
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ALL POSSIBLE MECHANICAL FAILURES. THUS, WHEN SUCH A FAILURE RESULTS IN A GROUNDING, THE ENTIRE OPERATION OF THE PATROL IS TERMINATED UNTIL THE NECESSARY PART IS RECEIVED. CURRENT PRACTICE IS THAT PARTS SHIPMENTS (WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION) MUST BE ROUTED THROUGH CANADIAN CUSTOMS IN HALIFAX PRIOR TO DELIVERY AT ST. JOHNS. IF A

SHIPMENT ARRIVES IN ST. JOHNS ON A WEEKEND, IT MUST SIT
UNTIL MONDAY MORNING BEFORE IT CAN BE RELEASED.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO CONTACT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND
INQUIRE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPROPRIATELY DOCUMENTED U.S. COGARD
AIRCRAFT PARTS BOUND FOR ST. JOHNS. IN OTHER WORDS,
SOME FORM OF QUOTE RED TAG UNQUOTE PROCEDURE WHICH
WOULD SERVE TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF CLEARING CUSTOMS.
THIS SHOULD IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS A COMPLAINT SINCE
WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESENT PRACTICE IS IN ACCORD WITH
CANADIAN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO
POINT OUT THAT CANADA BENEFITS FROM INTERNATIONAL ICE
PATROL AND AIRCRAFT DOWNTIME NATURALLY DEGRADES COGARD
EFFORT ON BEHALF OF ALL MARITIME NATIONS USING NORTH
ATLANTIC SHIPPING LANES.

5. FYI: LOCAL CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS WILL BE
ADVISED OF THIS INQUIRY.

6. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE STATE AND COGARD OF
RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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